

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of July 9, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Melvin Adams, Selectmen Roger LeClair, Kenneth Johnson, Charles Morse, and Greg Sanders. Also present were Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Ambulance Director Jim Baraw, Lynn Sanders, Larry Drown, Charles Harper, Paul Knox, Nate Freeman, Warren Hagy and Ben Carr (*Northfield News & Transcript*).

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **June 20, 2007 (Special Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- b. **June 25, 2007 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #02-08:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #02-08 in the amount of \$67,428.51. **Motion passed 4-0-1, with Selectman Morse abstaining.**

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

V. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
 - 1. **Town Union Contract.** The contract has been approved by the union; there were some typos (dates on the pay schedule needed to be updated to current dates – page 15). Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with the corrected dates to change the dates on page 15. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
 - 2. **Police Station.** The RFP for Police Department was put out and proposals are due back Thursday, July 19, 2007. There was a recent tour of the Mayo-DeLary House to see if it would meet any of the needs for the current facility.

VI. **SELECTBOARD**

- a. **Resolution for Roger LeClair.** There was a resolution for Roger LeClair, who recently retired from the Northfield School District, in recognition for his dedicated service to the Northfield Schools and the community of Northfield.
- b. **Zoning Board of Adjustment Appointment.** There was a letter of application for a vacancy on the ZBA. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to appoint Mr. Smith to fill the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the Village Trustees. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- c. **Executive Summary: Denny Driveway Applications.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve applications for lots 6, 7, and 10. Mr. Denny will come before the board at a later time to request the road to be upgraded from a Class 4 to a Class 3. Mr. Denny is aware of the road standards required. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- d. **Executive Summary: Donahue Driveway Application.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the permit. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- e. **Executive Summary: Korrow Driveway Application.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to approve the permit. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- f. **Executive Summary: Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) Line Extension Permit.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the request. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- g. **Town Tax Rate:**
 - 1. **Resident (Homestead).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to set the tax rate at \$2.3376. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
 - 2. **Non-resident.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to set the tax rate at \$2.4257. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- h. **Cemetery Rates:** The rates have not gone up since 1997. Some adjustments have been recommended by Manager Allard and Cemetery Superintendent Domenic Falzarano. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the new cemetery rates. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- i. **Status Reports: Various Projects**
 - 1. **Dissolution of the Falls Cemetery.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to authorize the municipality to move forward on dissolution on the Falls Cemetery commission and to file the appropriate paperwork with the Secretary of State and authorize the Manager to sign. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items:

- a. **Larry Drown.** Mr. Drown saw an ad on TV in regards to the electronic stun guns. Mr. Drown was informed that the Board approved over \$5000 to purchase these guns. Mr. Drown would like the Board to reconsider this and reverse the action that was taken to purchase the guns. Mr. Drown stated that Northfield had made national news previously when these guns were used on children and it cost us. Mr. Drown is concerned that these guns would be misused on high school and Norwich students. Mr. Drown would like this on the agenda for the next meeting to have it readdressed. If not, Mr. Drown would like to continue with a petition for a Northfield Police Commission. Chair Adams explained that this has already happened. The TASERS have been purchased and the Police Department has been told not to use them until a briefing for the Board is done by Chief Shaw. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting. Mr. Drown would like to know if the Board would entertain the idea of a Police Commission. Selectman Morse would be interesting in hearing more on this.
- b. **Lynn Sanders.** Mr. Sanders would like to know if the Board approved the expenditure of money for the TASERS. The Board did approve the purchase. Mr. Sanders wanted to know how this happened. Selectman Johnson stated that he missed it on the warrant and did not see it until after the meeting and the warrant had already been approved. There had been a meeting within the Board and it was in agreement that they were not interested in bringing TASERS into the community. The Board did not take a vote but there was no disagreement in that discussion. Mr. Sanders was concerned that the Manager is not being held accountable.
- c. **Charles Harper.** Mr. Harper would like to know what can be done on Routes 12 and 12A to make the roads more wheelchair accessible. There are sidewalks up to Norwich but not beyond that. He also is concerned that there are no crosswalks at the junction of Routes 12 and 12A. There is no safe route for people to get from there to the Village. Selectman Morse felt that if the area near the Wellfield ever got connected to the sewer lines, sidewalks should be part of this project. Mr. Harper would like to see a crosswalk at the junction of Routes 12 and 12A. Chair Adams will entertain the idea of finding out about the possibility of a crosswalk there.

Nate Freeman has spoken to Mr. Harper on this issue. He has submitted two articles to the *Northfield News and Transcript*. He also has concerns about the Village sidewalks. He feels that there may be an opportunity with the water treatment facilities to build in monies for the purpose of sidewalks. He would be willing to volunteer his time to work on any committee for this purpose. Mr. Denny expressed that there is a need for public works improvements in that area because he has seen drainage issues, safety issues, etc.

- d. **Brad Denny: Fairway Drive.** Mr. Denny stated that he has been working with Highway Superintendent Lyon to have the road brought up to standards. He has done the road with mat and gravel, as requested. He has done this to specs and he would like to invite the Board to go up and see the road.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Matter.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went into executive session at 7:59 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:26 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to proceed as previously directed on Union Brook Road but to limit the work to the area within the Town's right-of-way. The Town Attorney is to advise Ms. Blake's attorney accordingly. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- b. **Personnel Matter.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to go back into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board went back into executive session at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectmen LeClair, to have the Selectboard Chair advise the Police Chief to secure the TASER guns until the Board has reviewed this issue at its next regularly scheduled meeting (07/23/07). **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.